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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 04627

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, UY
SUBJECT: THE REAL REASON SENATOR KENNEDY IS NOT COMING
TO URUGUAY

1. (U) SUMMARY: URUGUAYAN SUPPORTERS OF WILSON FERREIRA ASSERT THAT SENATOR KENNEDY HAS CANCELLED HIS TRIP TO MONTEVIDEO BECAUSE OF PRESSURES FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE URUGUAYAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE STAUNCHLY PRO-WILSON FERREIRA DAILY "EL NUEVO TIEMPO" RAN A FRONT PAGE STORY IN ITS AUGUST 6 EDITION REPORTING THAT SENATOR KENNEDY WILL NOT BE COMING TO URUGUAY TO ATTEND THE AUGUST 16 RALLY MARKING THE TWO MONTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DETENTION OF WILSON FERREIRA. CITING UNNAMED OBSERVERS IN MONTEVIDEO AND WASHINGTON AS ITS SOURCES, "EL NUEVO TIEMPO" ASSERTS THAT THE "CANCELLATION" OF THE TRIP IS THE RESULT OF "PRESSURES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE URUGUAYAN FOREIGN MINISTRY."

3. (U) THE INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE "EL NUEVO TIEMPO" STORY FOLLOWS:

(BEGIN TEXT)

KENNEDY IS NOT COMING.

PRESSURES FROM REAGAN.

THE OFFICE OF SENATOR KENNEDY ISSUED TODAY, MONDAY, THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1984, SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY RECEIVED AN INVITATION FROM THE BLANCO PARTY OF URUGUAY TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ACT IN MONTEVIDEO ON AUGUST 16. THE PURPOSE OF THE ACT IS TO SUPPORT THE HOLDING OF FREE AND OPEN ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER AND TO PROTEST THE CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT OF WILSON AND HIS SON, JUAN RAUL.

THE SENATOR SUPPORTS THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ACT; HE JOINS WITH THE PEOPLE OF URUGUAY IN THE DESIRE FOR A RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN THAT COUNTRY. HE BELIEVES THAT MR. FERREIRA ALDUNATE AND HIS SON OUGHT TO BE FREED AND ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE

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ELECTORAL PROCESS. HE WILL SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO BE READ AT THE EVENT. IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR SENATOR KENNEDY TO PARTICIPATE PERSONALLY IN THE ACT; HE HAS NOTIFIED THE ORGANIZERS OF THE EVENT THAT REGRETTABLY HE CANNOT ACCEPT THEIR INVITATION."

POLITICAL OBSERVERS IN THIS CITY AS WELL AS SOME COMMENTATORS IN WASHINGTON INDICATE THAT THE CANCELLATION OF THE TRIP IS SURELY THE RESULT OF PRESSURES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AS WELL AS THE URUGUAYAN FOREIGN MINISTRY."

(END TEXT)

4. (C) COMMENT: THE "EL NUEVO TIEMPO" PIECE IS YET ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE DETERMINATION OF THE PRO-FERREIRA MAJORITY FACTION OF THE BLANCO PARTY TO ENGAGE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MORE DIRECTLY IN EFFORTS TO PRESSURE URUGUAYAN AUTHORITIES ON BEHALF OF THEIR LEADER. SENATOR KENNEDY WOULD BE SURPRISED, WE SUSPECT, TO LEARN THAT HE HAD CANCELLED HIS PLANS TO VISIT MONTEVIDEO BECAUSE OF PRESSURES FROM URUGUAYAN AUTHORITIES AND THE DEPARTMENT. MELTON
END OF MESSAGE CONFIDENTIAL

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